

LGOIMA

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Information requested by the media, from public sector organisations and MPs will always be published while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

**Request
from:**

For: 5G in Nelson and related health risks

**Response
by:**

Clare Barton
Group Manager Environmental Management



Ref: 2013530

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26 May 2020

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Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR CONCERNS OVER 5G

I refer to your official information request dated 1 May 2020 for questions regarding 5G and the health risks it could potentially pose to people. The information you requested is answered below.

"They (World Health Organization) are conducting health risk assessments from exposure to radiofrequencies, covering the entire radiofrequency range including 5G to be published by 2022 Yes! Good! Great! Definitely needs to be done. My question that then follows is why would Nelson City Council choose to allow 5G to continue to go ahead if this is the case?"

Nelson City Council is not the organisation responsible for the roll out of 5G in Nelson or consideration of potential health effects. This sits with the Government and specifically the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Ministry for the Environment.

"Does that mean Nelson City Council are willing to allow these towers and cellsites to be installed before an official report on health risk has been released?"

The National Environmental Standard for Telecommunication Facilities (NES-TF – see National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities 2016) is a regulation made under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) which provides consistent rules across the country with regards to telecommunication infrastructure. The NES-TF prevails over district or regional plan rules and sets standards for a range of telecommunication facilities including cabinets, antennas, small cell units, lines and the radiofrequency fields emitted.

"If in 2years time these studies conclude serious harm to people will Nelson City Council accept that they played a part in allowing this?"

The NES-TF is set by Government and comes under the remit of the Ministry for the Environment.

Yours sincerely

Clare Barton
Group Manager Environmental Management

Internal Document ID: A2392425

Venus Sood

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2020 3:29 PM
To: Council Enquiries (Enquiry)
Subject: Concerns over 5G

Hello.

I am a resident here in Nelson and am writing this email as a concerned person who has many questions regarding 5G and the health risks it could potentially pose to people. I have done a lot of reading and research lately and some of the data and information I have come across has certainly raised a lot of questions. (I seen on Nelson City Council website there was an opportunity to voice concern to local authority's on the 9th of March but I've only just become aware of this so I'm sorry about that. I'm not sure if it went ahead or not I have tried watching the video footage on the council's youtube channel but it isn't playing).

So first off what I can't wrap my head around is how it is possible that Nelson City Council has allowed 5G to be active in Nelson when it hasn't been properly tested? I understand NZ safety guidelines are set by The World Health Organization yes? Which means Nelson City Council and the New Zealand Government of course are following these. But these guidelines were set over 20 years ago and haven't been reviewed since 2017. Given how quickly technology is evolving particularly something as big as 5G which is currently being installed worldwide, it is extremely disappointing that this could be the case and that the Nelson City Council would choose to accept this as adequate information in regards to safety and still continue to allow 5G towers to be installed and/or upgraded.

It also states on their website that they (World Health Organization) are conducting health risk assessments from exposure to radiofrequencies, covering the entire radiofrequency range including 5G to be published by 2022. Yes! Good! Great! Definitely needs to be done but my question that then follows is why would Nelson City Council choose to allow 5G to continue to go ahead if this is the case? Does that mean Nelson City Council are willing to allow these towers and cell sites to be installed before an official report on health risk has been released? If in 2 years time these studies conclude serious harm to people will Nelson City Council accept that they played a part in allowing this? I also see that a 5G cell site is above the Nelson City Council building so I guess local Council will be exposed to this more than most.

Technology can be fantastic but allowing 5G to go ahead to allow for quicker downloads and smart cars ahead of people's safety is not. At what point do we say enough is enough.

I am merely asking more consideration and research be undertaken in regards to the entirety of 5G before allowing this network to go ahead/continue.

Thank you